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CANADIAN : SERIES : OF : BOOKLETS

Madeleine de Vercheres

BY

JOHN READE

THE COPP, CLARK COMPANY, Limited, TORONTO



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Acc. No. 365-52



With the Compliments of the Season

From .....

To .....



Madeleine : : ; de Vercheres



"O[illegible]n! my country, bowed [illegible] anguish 'neath a weight of bitter woe.

Who shall save thee from the vengeance of a desolating foe?

They have sworn a heathen oath that every Christian soul must die—

God of Heaven, in mercy shield us! Father, hear thy children's cry."











'Tis the season when the forest wears its many-colored dress,
And a strange foreboding whisper answers back the wind's caress,
As the swaying pines repeat the murmurs of the distant seas,
While the children of the Summer flutter softly to their graves.





Hist—was that another whisper, warning her of ill to come,

[illegible] beside [illegible], near her father's fortress-home?

Hark! the sound of stealthy footsteps creeps upon the throb-

[illegible] ear—

Harden, fly! the foe approaches, and no human aid is near.





Surely He who decked with beauty this fair earth on which we
dwell,

Never meant that men should change it by their madness
into hell:

He who gave the trees their glory, gave the birds their gift of
song,

Cannot smile from out yon heavens at the sight of human wrong.





But those savage hearts no beauty wins to thoughts of tender ruth—

Mother fond, or gentle maid, or smiling innocence of youth.

See! with fierce exulting yells the flying maiden they pursue—

Hear her prayer, O God, and save her from that wild, vindictive crew.





Never ere that day or since was such a race by maiden run;
Never 'gainst such fearful odds was wished for goal so [illegible]
...n;
Fifty foes are on her track, the bullets graze her floating hair—
But worse than vain is all their rage, for God above has heard
her prayer.





sublime has reached the Fort; the gates are closed against
the foe.

But now a terror-stricken throng sends up to Heaven a wail of
despair—

Feeble men and fainting women, without heart, or nerve, or plan—

Can it be that God gave courage to a maid to set the men



That it was that [illegible] brought her of her father's name;

[illegible] a soldier's daughter die the [illegible] death of shame;

[illegible]

[illegible] was cowd.





















Seven days and seven nights, with sleepless eye and bated breath,

They held the fort against the foe that lurked around them plotting death!

At last a joyous challenge came, it was the brave La Tournelle,

And up to heaven arose a shout, "The foe has fled, and we are free!"

